

San Diego County

Entomology Newsletter



Glassy winged sharpshooter by S. Carr

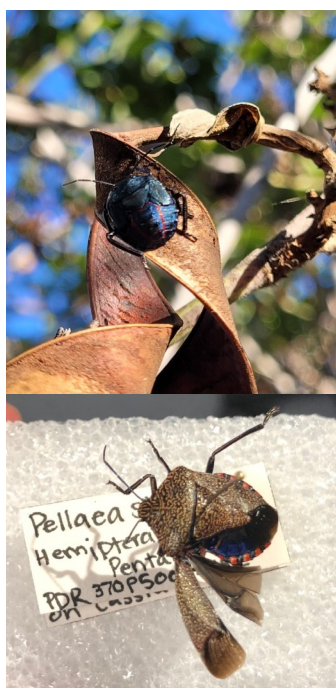
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Invasive Pest Alert — Stinkbug

Many invasive pest alerts are reported to us by certified arborists, who are the eyes on the ground (or, in the branches!) as they are attending to trees all over the county and are often the first to recognize unfamiliar arthropods in the local environment. In October, we received an email from an arborist with photos of an insect they found on a *Bauhinia* sp. 'orchid tree' at a residence in the county. We tentatively identified it as *Pellaea stictica* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) and collected an official sample. Los Angeles County reported a find at the same time. Despite posts on iNaturalist from across Southern California dating back to 2019, there were no prior official records in the state. Showing the samples around the County office, several colleagues recognized having seen this distinctive bug in trees in their neighborhoods. CDFA conducted a pest rating evaluation, with our input, and determined the risk to agriculture to be minimal, given that it is already established and reportedly does not cause substantial damage to host plants. It is distributed throughout the Americas south of the USA. See more information here: <https://blogs.cdca.ca.gov/Section3162/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Pellaea-stictica.pdf>

Pellaea stictica stinkbug nymph submitted by reporting arborist (top) and pinned adult (bottom; B. Cass).



Apiary Program Updates



We have been working with the California Master Beekeeper Program to write guidelines for the public seeking live honey bee removal, and best management practices for industry. See these considerations here: <https://cambp.ucdavis.edu/live-honey-bee-removal-specialists>

What to consider when hiring a Honey Bee Removal Specialist

Best Management Practices for Honey Bee Removal Specialists

FAQs about Honey Bee Removal

A Live Bee Removal Specialist should perform a live capture and removal of bees without the use of pesticides. They should not use any chemicals during the removal process unless they have a valid Pest Control License which can be found at [California Department of Pesticide Regulation Licensees](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/currlic.html) (<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/currlic.html>) or [California Department of Consumer Affairs](https://search.dca.ca.gov/advanced) (<https://search.dca.ca.gov/advanced>). If you think a pesticide was used improperly you can report it to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation at 1-877-378-5463 (1-877PestLine).

Lab Updates & Outreach Events

Dr. Bodil Cass, Agricultural Scientist, presented at the Western Integrated Pest Management Center and University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources 2021 *South American Palm Weevil San Diego County Symposium Webinar*. This was a two-day series with government, industry and researchers speaking on efforts to monitor and control for this insect. The South American Palm Weevil is established in San Diego County, recorded as far north as Highway 78. Report infested palms to the Center for Invasive Species Research: <https://cisir.ucr.edu/invasive-species/south-american-palm-weevil>. For health assessments for palms on private land, the property owner should contact the Professional Tree Care Association (ptcaosd.wildapricot.org | 714/639-6516) to be connected with a certified arborist.

View the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-efaxPbNaU>



Favorite Samples & Acknowledgements

Thank you to our Custodial staff who are on-site helping to keep the shared workspaces clean and safe during the public health emergency.



Vedalia beetle. Photo: B. Cass

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